



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1A 5B2

E-mail: [gyoung@nlh.nl.ca](mailto:gyoung@nlh.nl.ca)

2013-11-06

Mr. Geoffrey Young  
Senior Legal Counsel  
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro  
P.O. Box 12400  
St. John's, NL A1B 4K7

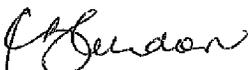
Dear Mr. Young:

**Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro – 2013 General Rate Application**

Enclosed are Information Requests PUB-NLH-284 to PUB-NLH-350 regarding the above-noted application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board's Legal Counsel, Ms. Jacqui Glynn, via [jgylmn@pub.nl.ca](mailto:jgylmn@pub.nl.ca) or (709) 726-6781.

Yours truly,

  
Cheryl Blundon  
Board Secretary

/bt  
Encl.

c.c.c. **Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro**  
Mr. Colin Feltham, E-mail: [cfeltham@wrmlaw.com](mailto:cfeltham@wrmlaw.com)  
**Newfoundland Power Inc.**  
Mr. Gerard Hayes, E-mail: [ghayes@newfoundlandpower.com](mailto:ghayes@newfoundlandpower.com)  
Mr. Liam O'Brien, E-mail: [lobrien@curtisdawe.nf.ca](mailto:lobrien@curtisdawe.nf.ca)  
**Consumer Advocates**  
Mr. Thomas Johnson, E-mail: [tjohnson@odeasarie.nf.ca](mailto:tjohnson@odeasarie.nf.ca)  
Ms. Colleen Lacey, E-mail: [clacey@odeasarie.ca](mailto:clacey@odeasarie.ca)  
**Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, North Atlantic Refining Limited and Teck Resources**  
Mr. Paul Coxworthy, E-mail: [pcoxworthy@stewartmekelvey.com](mailto:pcoxworthy@stewartmekelvey.com)  
Mr. Dean Porter, E-mail: [dporter@pa-law.ca](mailto:dporter@pa-law.ca)  
**Yale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited**  
Mr. Tom O'Reilly, Q.C., E-mail: [toareilly@coxandpalmer.com](mailto:toareilly@coxandpalmer.com)  
Mr. Denis Fleming, E-mail: [dfleming@coxandpalmer.com](mailto:dfleming@coxandpalmer.com)  
**Innu Nation**  
Ms. Nancy Kleer, E-mail: [nkleer@oktlaw.com](mailto:nkleer@oktlaw.com)  
Ms. Stephanie Kearns, E-mail: [skearns@oktlaw.com](mailto:skearns@oktlaw.com)  
**Towns of Labrador**  
Mr. Edward Hearn, Q.C., E-mail: [miller&hearn@crstvn.net](mailto:miller&hearn@crstvn.net)  
**Yvonne Jones, MP Labrador**  
Yvonne Jones, E-mail: [Yvonne.Jones.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Yvonne.Jones.C1@parl.gc.ca)

1 **IN THE MATTER OF**  
2 the *Electrical Power Control Act, 1994*,  
3 SNL 1994, Chapter E-5.1 (the "*EPCA*")  
4 and the *Public Utilities Act, RSNL 1990*,  
5 Chapter P-47 (the "*Act*"), as amended; and  
6  
7 **IN THE MATTER OF** a General Rate  
8 Application (the "*Application*") by  
9 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to  
10 establish customer electricity rates for 2014.

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**PUB-NLH-284 to PUB-NLH-350**

**Issued: November 6, 2013**

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- 1 **PUB-NLH-284** Further to the response to V-NLH-1 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
2 proceeding, is Hydro aware of any utilities in North America that utilize a  
3 hydraulic variation component within their rate stabilization plans or fuel  
4 adjustment charges? If the answer is yes, provide the name of each utility  
5 and describe the provisions of each such hydraulic load variation,  
6 including a comparison of each to Hydro's current provisions which  
7 outlines the similarities and the differences with Hydro's hydraulic  
8 variation component.  
9
- 10 **PUB-NLH-285** Further to the response to V-NLH-1 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
11 proceeding, is Hydro aware of any utilities in North America that utilize a  
12 fuel variation component within their rate stabilization plan or fuel  
13 adjustment charge? If the answer is yes, provide the name of each utility  
14 and describe the provision of each such fuel variation, including a  
15 comparison of each to Hydro's current provisions which outlines the  
16 similarities and the differences with Hydro's fuel variation component.  
17
- 18 **PUB-NLH-286** Further to the response to CA-NLH-7 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
19 proceeding, provide a table comparing actual revenues obtained (in total  
20 dollars and on an average \$/kWh basis) to revenues that would have been  
21 generated had the Industrial customer rates not been frozen from January  
22 1, 2008 to August 31, 2013, applying fully the current RSP rules. Show  
23 revenues each year since 2007 for each Industrial customer and include  
24 NP actual revenue on a \$/kWh basis for comparison purposes.  
25
- 26 **PUB-NLH-287** Further to the response to CA-NLH-7 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
27 proceeding, provide a table for the period 2007 to 2012 comparing actual  
28 revenues obtained (in total dollars and on an average \$/kWh basis) to  
29 revenues that would have been received had only the hydraulic and fuel  
30 variation provisions of the RSP been applied during the period, that is, no  
31 load variation adjustments to revenues. Show the revenue for each year for  
32 each Industrial customer and for NP and the resulting net income for  
33 Hydro each year.  
34
- 35 **PUB-NLH-288** Further to the response to CA-NLH-7 in relation to the RSP proceeding,  
36 provide a table for the period 2007 to 2012 comparing actual revenues  
37 obtained (in total dollars and on an average \$/kWh basis) to revenues that  
38 would have been received if only the hydraulic variation provision of the  
39 RSP had been applied and the variation in actual fuel costs from the test  
40 year fuel costs was recovered over the subsequent year, rather than as in  
41 the current RSP fuel variation provision. Show the revenue for each year  
42 for each Industrial customer and for NP and the resulting net income for  
43 Hydro each year.

- 1 **PUB-NLH-289** Explain in detail the advantages and disadvantages for Hydro and for  
2 customers of the ability to recover variations from the test year in each of:  
3
- 4 (i) load
  - 5 (ii) hydraulic production; and
  - 6 (iii) fuel price and volume
- 7  
8 and explain why, in Hydro's opinion, all three components should be  
9 included in the RSP.  
10
- 11 **PUB-NLH-290** Further to the response to CA-NLH-17 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
12 proceeding, describe in detail the "*significant value*" the RSP provides to  
13 customers. In the response also outline any disadvantages that the RSP  
14 presents for customers.  
15
- 16 **PUB-NLH-291** Further to the response to CA-NLH-17 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
17 proceeding, did Hydro perform any analysis or review to support its  
18 conclusion that the RSP is of "*significant value*" to customers? If yes,  
19 provide a copy of such analysis or review. If no analysis was completed,  
20 why not?  
21
- 22 **PUB-NLH-292** Further to the response to CA-NLH-17 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
23 proceeding, explain in detail the "*value*" the RSP provides to Hydro.  
24 Include in the response, all the advantages and disadvantages for Hydro  
25 arising from the RSP.  
26
- 27 **PUB-NLH-293** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-18 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
28 proceeding, in which Hydro stated that it had not considered the  
29 introduction of a cap on the variations in the load component of the RSP  
30 while maintaining the current treatment of both the revenue and fuel  
31 components of the load variation component, what, in Hydro's opinion,  
32 are the advantages and disadvantages of such a cap for customers and for  
33 Hydro?  
34
- 35 **PUB-NLH-294** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-19 in relation to the 2013 RSP  
36 proceeding, in which Hydro states that "*...ideally, the RSP methodology*  
37 *would have been able to handle these load variations, as variations of*  
38 *even greater magnitude have historically occurred in Hydraulic and Fuel*  
39 *Cost components of the RSP",* provide the details on these variations of  
40 "*greater magnitude*" referred to in the response. Why, in Hydro's opinion,  
41 were such variations adequately dealt with by the RSP but the load  
42 variations were not?  
43
- 44 **PUB-NLH-295** Further to the response to CA-NLH-027 does Hydro consider the rural  
45 subsidy to be a true cost to be reflected in the Cost of Service revenue to  
46 cost ratio?

- 1 **PUB-NLH-296** Further to the response to CA-NLH-027 has Hydro considered other  
2 possible ways of presenting the revenue to cost ratio to better reflect the  
3 impact of the inclusion of the rural subsidy on the rates of the customers of  
4 Hydro and of Newfoundland Power Inc.? If so, which possibilities have  
5 been considered?  
6
- 7 **PUB-NLH-297** Further to the response to CA-NLH-053, provide details of the treatment  
8 in the Cost of Service of a fully contributed asset, including ownership,  
9 O&M, and any other relevant factors.  
10
- 11 **PUB-NLH-298** Further to the response to CA-NLH-098, Attachment 1, page 30 of 63,  
12 identify the plant that is associated with each rating in the table provided  
13 in Note 17(d).  
14
- 15 **PUB-NLH-299** Further to the response to CA-NLH-105 were any positions upgraded to  
16 higher pay grades in the period 2009 to 2012, in addition to receiving the  
17 increases outlined in the responses? If yes, list the positions and describe  
18 the upgrade given for each position.  
19
- 20 **PUB-NLH-300** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-05 and PUB-NLH-092 which  
21 describe non-regulated services performed by Hydro for Nalcor, provide a  
22 revised Exhibit 7 Non-Regulated Operations to reflect these non-regulated  
23 operations and any other additions, deletions or changes to such services  
24 so that Exhibit 7 accurately reflects current non-regulated operations of  
25 Hydro.  
26
- 27 **PUB-NLH-301** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-021 which outlines action Hydro has  
28 taken to improve the accuracy of capital budget project cost estimates and  
29 its ability to complete capital projects on schedule, explain in detail any  
30 additional action Hydro intends to take given the percent complete  
31 decreased in 2012 (response to NP-NLH-016) and the variance from  
32 budget increased (2012 Annual Financial Review by Grant Thornton, page  
33 64-65).  
34
- 35 **PUB-NLH-302** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-023 and Chart 2.4, page 2.17 of the  
36 Application, in which wages/salaries from Alberta, Hebron and Vale are  
37 shown, what comparator or peer group does Hydro consider in assessing  
38 whether its wages, salaries and benefits are reasonable and competitive?  
39 Describe in detail the criteria used in the selection of the comparator group  
40 and whether there are different groups used for various positions or  
41 classifications, including the executive and senior management.  
42
- 43 **PUB-NLH-303** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-028 and CA-NLH-105 provide a  
44 copy of the review completed by Mercer on non-union compensation.

- 1 **PUB-NLH-304** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-032 does the 2013 Test Year  
2 Revenue Requirement include any amount for incentive compensation  
3 payments? If yes, state the 2013 forecast amount and the actual amounts  
4 each year from 2007 to 2012.  
5
- 6 **PUB-NLH-305** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-032 does the 2013 Test Year  
7 Revenue Requirement include any amount for the merit-based, re-earnable  
8 cash payments for employees referred to in footnote 1 of the response? If  
9 yes, state the 2013 forecast amount and the actual amounts of such  
10 payments each year from 2007 to 2012.  
11
- 12 **PUB-NLH-306** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-037 explain where the expense  
13 adjustments/additions made for 2007 and 2008 in Table 1 in the response  
14 were reflected in the 2007 actuals in Table 2.4, page 2.21 of the  
15 Application and whether any other adjustments are required to Table 2.4  
16 to reflect the response given in PUB-NLH-037.  
17
- 18 **PUB-NLH-307** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-052 and NP-NLH-027 does Hydro  
19 intend to file a revised 2013 Test Year Revenue Requirement to reflect the  
20 updated financial forecast for 2013? If yes, when will it be filed? If no,  
21 why not?  
22
- 23 **PUB-NLH-308** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-054 and PUB-NLH-056 what is the  
24 increase in the 2013 Revenue Requirement if the return on equity is  
25 Hydro's marginal cost of debt, 4.138% (response to PUB-NLH-053) and  
26 rural assets are included in rate base?  
27
- 28 **PUB-NLH-309** The responses to the following sets out certain increases in the 2013 Test  
29 Year Revenue Requirement:  
30
- 31 1) PUB-NLH-062 - \$5.1 million increase due to the 100 million
  - 32 equity contribution by the Government in 2009; and
  - 33 2) PUB-NLH-056 - \$20.9 million increase due to the Government
  - 34 direction to allow the same return on equity as allowed for
  - 35 Newfoundland Power and to include rural assets in the
  - 36 calculation of rate base.  
37
- 38 What are the benefits and disadvantages to Hydro and to rate payers  
39 flowing from these increases in revenue requirement?  
40
- 41 **PUB-NLH-310** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-078 explain in detail how each rural  
42 rate listed in the response differs from the standard rate for the same type  
43 of service.  
44
- 45 **PUB-NLH-311** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-093 and PUB-NLH-094 provide a  
46 revised Attachment 1 that lists each deferral and recovery element in the  
47 existing RSP and the additional deferral and recovery elements Hydro  
48 proposes be added in this Application.

- 1 **PUB-NLH-312** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-095 where Hydro listed recovery  
2 mechanisms in other jurisdictions, provide for each deferral mechanism  
3 listed as existing in other Canadian jurisdictions a comparison, including  
4 all similarities and differences, with Hydro's equivalent mechanism.  
5
- 6 **PUB-NLH-313** Further to the responses to NP-NLH-105 and to IN-NLH-010, provide the  
7 reports from all reviews that have been undertaken by Hydro to evaluate  
8 the effectiveness of any CDM programs after they have been put in place.  
9
- 10 **PUB-NLH-314** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-139 and PUB-NLH-147 how does  
11 Hydro ensure that there is effective corporate governance given the  
12 percentage of time shown in PUB-NLH-147 that the officers of the  
13 company are engaged in Hydro's regulated operations?  
14
- 15 **PUB-NLH-315** Further to the responses to PUB-NLH-139 and NP-NLH-058 given that  
16 Hydro and Nalcor have the same Boards of Directors and the same  
17 officers, explain in detail the policies, procedures and practices which are  
18 in place to ensure that the best interests of Hydro are considered and  
19 dominant in any decision making process. In the response include the  
20 policies, procedures and practices which are followed where there are  
21 potential conflicts of interest between Hydro and Nalcor.  
22
- 23 **PUB-NLH-316** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-141 which states that all analyses  
24 relating to the organizational structure for Hydro and its relationship with  
25 Nalcor were completed internally, provide copies of all such internal  
26 analyses, studies, reports and memoranda.  
27
- 28 **PUB-NLH-317** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-141, page 2, lines 13-14, provide a  
29 copy of the guiding principles adopted by the Nalcor Leadership Team as  
30 part of the organizational review.  
31
- 32 **PUB-NLH-318** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-145 did Hydro or its external  
33 consultant complete a review or survey of practices of others to determine  
34 industry standards regarding intercompany transactions? If yes, provide all  
35 information and documentation on such review or survey, including the  
36 companies reviewed and the information provided by such companies.  
37
- 38 **PUB-NLH-319** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-146, provide the list of senior, single  
39 incumbent roles in various departments and selected senior leads in the  
40 Controller's department that were transferred to Nalcor and the amount of  
41 time spent by each position on work for Hydro and for Nalcor since the  
42 date of transfer of each position.  
43
- 44 **PUB-NLH-320** Update the response to PUB-NLH-147 to provide a forecast for 2013 of  
45 the time to be allocated to Hydro by the positions listed on Attachment 1.

- 1 **PUB-NLH-321** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-165 explain the basis for sharing  
2 annual report and annual meeting expenses among the lines of business  
3 and the basis for allocating such costs on a case-by-case basis.  
4
- 5 **PUB-NLH-322** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-222 explain why, beginning in 2010,  
6 billable hours are used in the calculation of the bill rate, rather than total  
7 hours as previously.  
8
- 9 **PUB-NLH-323** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-226 does Hydro have a written  
10 policy on the recording of time by employees through timesheets? If yes,  
11 provide a copy of such policy.  
12
- 13 **PUB-NLH-324** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-231 explain why the administrative  
14 fully loaded cost was increased from 42% to 57% in 2009 and provide the  
15 details of the calculation supporting the 57% currently used.  
16
- 17 **PUB-NLH-325** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-252 given the hours charged by the  
18 Nalcor Rates and Financial Planning Analyst to Hydro each year, explain  
19 why it is considered appropriate that the position is a Nalcor one.  
20
- 21 **PUB-NLH-326** Further to the response to NP-NLH-024, Attachment 1, page 24, in which  
22 information is provided on other utilities' practices for intercompany  
23 transactions for shared services, describe in detail for each utility the types  
24 of services shared and compare them to those shared by Nalcor and  
25 Hydro.  
26
- 27 **PUB-NLH-327** Further to the response to NP-NLH-024, Attachment 1, page 24, in which  
28 information is provided on intercompany transactions of certain utilities,  
29 state whether corporate executive services such as the Chief Executive  
30 Officer and Vice President of Finance are shared in the utilities that  
31 participated in the review, other than Hydro. If yes, describe in detail the  
32 executive services shared, the basis for sharing and the percentage of time  
33 of each executive spent annually on the business of the regulated utility.  
34
- 35 **PUB-NLH-328** Further to the response to NP-NLH-058, page 2, line 34, who attends each  
36 of the monthly meetings of the senior management group for Nalcor and  
37 for Hydro?  
38
- 39 **PUB-NLH-329** Further to the response to NP-NLH-058, page 2, describe in detail the  
40 process used to monitor the impact on Hydro resources of services  
41 performed for and by Nalcor and the criteria used to determine whether an  
42 adjustment is to be made in Hydro's resources.

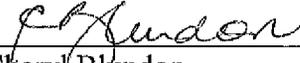
- 1 **PUB-NLH-330** Further to the response to NP-NLH-131, page 4, lines 6-8, what company  
2 owns, operates and maintains the four 38.35 MVar capacitor banks and  
3 associate equipment at the Come By Chance Terminal Station installed in  
4 2011/2012? Are these assets assigned either specifically or as common  
5 assets by Hydro in its 2013 Cost of Service Study?  
6
- 7 **PUB-NLH-331** Further to the response to IC-NLH-030, page 6 of 10, provide an  
8 explanation of the table, including the source of the information provided,  
9 an indication of which numbers are actual (as of the date of preparation of  
10 the table) and which are forecast, the significance of the line labeled  
11 "*WABUSH MINES*" and the composition of the line labeled "*NLH*  
12 *LABRADOR INTERNAL REQ'D (at CF)*".  
13
- 14 **PUB-NLH-332** Further to the response to IC-NLH-034, provide details of the derivation  
15 of \$217,000 shown as the IOC cost recovery.  
16
- 17 **PUB-NLH-333** Further to the response to IC-NLH-072, why, given the differences  
18 between Newfoundland Power Inc.'s curtailable load and Newfoundland  
19 Power In.'s generation capacity, would consideration be given to treating  
20 the curtailable load in the same manner as Newfoundland Power Inc.'s  
21 generation capacity?  
22
- 23 **PUB-NLH-334** Further to the response to IN-NLH-052, confirm that the numbers for  
24 SAIFI and SAIDI in this response include planned and unplanned outages  
25 and, if planned and unplanned outages are included, restate the  
26 information separating the planned and unplanned numbers.  
27
- 28 **PUB-NLH-335** Further to the response to V-NLH-003, Attachment 1, page 2 of 2, provide  
29 an explanation of why the ecoenergy wind credit is greater than the  
30 \$620,850 noted in the response to PUB-NLH-017 and in NP-NLH-059.  
31
- 32 **PUB-NLH-336** Adjust the 2013 Test Year Revenue Requirement showing details of the  
33 impact to reflect a reduction in the Industrial Customers' total load equal  
34 to the total 2013 forecast load of Corner Brook Pulp & Paper Limited,  
35 North Atlantic Refining Limited and Teck Resources.  
36
- 37 **PUB-NLH-337** Provide a detailed calculation, showing a separate adjustment to the 2013  
38 Test Year Revenue Requirement for the impact of the change in load of  
39 each customer, to reflect a reduction in the Industrial Customers' total load  
40 equal to the 2013 forecast load of each of the following Industrial  
41 Customers: Corner Brook Pulp & Paper Limited, North Atlantic Refining  
42 Limited and Teck Resources.

- 1     **PUB-NLH-338**         Does Hydro participate in an association of utilities that serves customers  
2                             through diesel powered generation? If yes, how long has Hydro been a  
3                             member and what are the practices of such group relating to the sharing of  
4                             information?  
5
- 6     **PUB-NLH-339**         Hydro filed, as part of its 2003 GRA, a Discussion Paper for the Minister  
7                             of Mines and Energy on the Rural Deficit which included information on  
8                             the comparative practices in other jurisdictions on the subsidization of  
9                             certain rates, and Hydro further updated this information in response to an  
10                            information request during the hearing (NP-58). Provide a copy of this  
11                            Discussion Paper and update the information provided in the 2003 GRA  
12                            relating to comparative practices in other jurisdictions.  
13
- 14    **PUB-NLH-340**         Further to the response to PUB-NLH-100, provide the data sources,  
15                            calculations and workpapers used to derive 0.18675 "Estimated Tail Block  
16                            Rate based upon 2013 Test Year (\$/kWh)" as shown on the table provided  
17                            in the response.  
18
- 19    **PUB-NLH-341**         Explain in detail why the Coincident Peak at Generation for the Island  
20                            Interconnected System (1,376,994 kW) as shown on "System Load  
21                            Factor," Schedule 4.2, Exhibit 13 differs from the Coincident kW at  
22                            Generation Grand Total (1,341,001 kW) shown on "Summary of Demand  
23                            and Energy Factors" in the supporting file "Load2013TY," provided with  
24                            the Cost of Service model.  
25
- 26    **PUB-NLH-342**         Further to the response to PUB-NLH-137, explain in detail if the Wabush  
27                            Terminal Station 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> expansion is an energy source and provide the  
28                            capacity available to Hydro, monthly quantity supplied and the average  
29                            unit costs (demand and energy). Also, explain why these power purchases  
30                            should be allocated 100% to Distribution Demand rather than to  
31                            production demand or energy.  
32
- 33    **PUB-NLH-343**         In Exhibit 3, Section 1.2 – Labrador Interconnected, it is indicated that  
34                            "Virtually all power and energy is purchased from Churchill Falls  
35                            Corporation Ltd." Specify capacity charges and energy charges for this  
36                            purchased power.

- 1 **PUB-NLH-344** In the GRA Application, Section 2.6.2 Labrador Interconnected System it  
2 is stated that the majority of energy consumed is purchased from  
3 CF(L)Co. with the exception of gas and diesel generation from Happy  
4 Valley-Goose Bay when needed for outages or system support. However,  
5 in the same section there is also reference to other power purchase expense  
6 for the Labrador Interconnected System related to TwinCo Wabush  
7 Terminal Station. Explain in detail how, if the energy from CF(L)Co and  
8 gas and diesel generation from Happy Valley-Goose Bay is the only  
9 energy consumed in the Labrador Interconnected System, there is also a  
10 power purchase expense related to TwinCo Wabush Terminal. If TwinCo  
11 Wabush represents additional energy supplied to the system, describe in  
12 detail this purchase, how many KWs and kWhs are delivered to the  
13 Labrador Interconnected System, and the frequency of these deliveries.  
14
- 15 **PUB-NLH-345** Identify the gas and diesel plants in Labrador Interconnected System, and  
16 for each of them, indicate when they are dispatched and what the output  
17 (MWh) is.  
18
- 19 **PUB-NLH-346** Provide a detailed description of the \$863,434 Revenue Credit associated  
20 with CFB – Goose Bay Secondary, including workpapers showing how it  
21 is calculated.  
22
- 23 **PUB-NLH-347** In reference to the RSP Adjustment of (1.101) cents per kWh presented in  
24 the Monthly Rates of the Utility Rate Schedule provided with the GRA  
25 Application (page 3 of 47), provide all related data and workpapers and  
26 explain in detail how this rate was calculated and the elements of the RSP  
27 balance that it is intended to cover.  
28
- 29 **PUB-NLH-348** Table 4.4 “Comparison of Revenues and RSP at Existing and Proposed  
30 Rates” in Section 4.5 of the GRA Application shows a change of  
31 -\$91,410,862 in the RSP for Newfoundland Power. Is this negative change  
32 part of the RSP Surplus refund plan referred in Section 3.8.2 Rate  
33 Stabilization Plan, or is it part of the RSP adjustment of (1.101) cents per  
34 kWh? If it is neither of these RSP elements, explain what portion of the  
35 RSP it pertains to and provide as much detail as possible in your  
36 explanation.  
37
- 38 **PUB-NLH-349** Further to response to IN-NLH-106, provide a full description of precisely  
39 what is meant in each instance where it is indicated that the rate is  
40 “Indexed based on NP’s average rate change to this rate class”. Also,  
41 provide examples of how these rates are set.  
42
- 43 **PUB-NLH-350** Provide a detailed description of each component of the CDM program  
44 labeled “Install” as shown on table 6 of Section 4.1.2 of Exhibit 9: Report  
45 to Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro. This program represents 58.61% of  
46 the actual CDM Portfolio Spending in 2012.

**DATED** at St. John's, Newfoundland this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Per   
Cheryl Blundon  
Board Secretary